

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JAMES
ALEXANDER FUNKHOUSER

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain James Alexander Funkhouser, a brave soldier and fallen hero from Katy, Texas.

Captain Funkhouser was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, and he was their Headquarters and Company Commander in Iraq.

The son of a 31-year Army Veteran, Captain Funkhouser was born in Okinawa, Japan, but he eventually became a Texan, graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1999 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Captain Funkhouser spent the next six years stationed in Vilseck, Germany, Fort Knox, KY, Fort Polk, LA and finally to Fort Hood, TX where he was then deployed with his unit to Baghdad, Iraq in early December 2005.

A highly decorated soldier and American hero, Captain Funkhouser's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

During a reconnaissance operation in Baghdad, Captain Funkhouser, his Iraqi interpreter and two CBS reporters were killed when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee.

Captain Funkhouser loved his country, and he gave his life defending America and the freedom and opportunity for which our flag flies.

Captain Funkhouser is survived by his wife, Jennifer; daughters, Kaitlyn and Allison; parents, Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. James Alexander Funkhouser, Sr.; grandmother, Oneita Funkhouser; parents-in-law, Henry and Rosemary Garza and numerous extended family members, friends and fellow soldiers of the United States Army.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS,
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the following high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certifi-

cate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders through their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2006

Lucero Perdomo, New Futures High School; Claudia Grajeda, School for Integrated Academics and Technologies; Amy Holmen, Sandia Preparatory School; Aidan Hamke, Albuquerque Academy; Christopher Anaya, Moriarty High School; Holly Garcia, Albuquerque Charter Vocational High School; Laura Wilson, East Mountain High School; Melanie Garcia, Los Puentes Charter School; Talya Ogas, Los Lunas High School; Lisa Herrera, Temple Baptist Academy; Leslie Copass, La Cueva High School; Lisa Domme, Sandia High School;

Ariel Blea, Valley High School; Kayleen Foltz, Creative Education Preparatory Institute; Joseph D. Miranda, Sierra Alternative High School; Patricia D. Mooney, Southwest Secondary Learning Center; Kimberly Lauer, Menaul School; Christiana Baca-Bosiljevack, Menaul School; Janice Cribbage, Highland High School; Catherine Ames, Cibola High School; Crystal Vialpando, Mountainair High School; Desiree Cordova, Bernalillo High School; Carla Dozal, West Mesa High School; Grace Floyd, Hope Christian School.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE OWEN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotic public service and self sacrifice of Colorado Senator Dave Owen.

For more than five decades, Dave Owen has used his God-given abilities to serve his country as an Army officer, as a small business owner, and State Representative and Senator in Colorado. His tenacity, his sense of humor, and his integrity endear him to many people. He is worthy of our respect and admiration.

Mr. Owen comes from a family with a history of public service. His stepfather served as an Army officer and the chairman of the Colorado Republican Party. Following in his footsteps, Owen joined the Air Force Reserves while studying at Denver University and then volunteered to fight the communists in Korea in 1951. As an armorer, he worked for 12 months arming and cleaning the weapons on F-51 Mustang fighter planes. After returning home to Colorado he used the GI Bill to get a Bachelor's Degree in English at Colorado College, in Colorado Springs, while simultaneously becoming the Cadet Commander in his ROTC unit. As a 2nd Lieutenant, he again entered full time military service and was sent to Europe and his wife, Marilyn, was able to accompany him. For several years, he served as a platoon leader in German to help defend against a possible invasion from the Soviet Union.

After returning to the United States, Mr. Owen decided to pursue the remaining part of his military career as an Army personnel officer. This new career gave Mr. Owen the opportunity to travel the world. After working at Fort Bragg in North Carolina for three years, he received training in the Persian language of Farsi in California before being sent to Iran as an advisor for the Shah. After two and a half years in the Middle East, he returned to work at Fort Campbell, Kentucky before being sent to Vietnam in 1967 to work as the Deputy Adjutant General of the 101st Airborne Division. After Vietnam, Owen's military service continued when he joined the U.S. Strike Command in Florida. As a Lt. Colonel, he traveled to various countries in Africa and the Middle East as an advisor on the use of military equipment supplied by the United States. In the mid-70s, Owen finished his military career working for the Army and Air Force Postal Service in Washington, D.C., supervising the delivery of mail and postal services to Army and Air Force personnel worldwide. He also oversaw military personnel charged with transporting top secret documents to U.S. Embassies around the world.

In 1979, Mr. Owen retired from the Army and came to Greeley, Colorado, for a business opportunity. For the next 10 years, he owned and operated a wholesale snack food company. Owen sold the business after he decided to devote his energy full-time into public policy. He was appointed to his first elected office in 1987 to replace Tom Norton, who resigned from office, as State Representative in the 48th House District. In 1988, Owen ran and won reelection for the same House seat. He served his district faithfully until 1998 when he ran and won as Senator for Colorado's 13th District.

As a State Senator, Owen consistently receives high rating from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers for fighting government waste, and the National Federation of Independent Business for being a "Guardian of Small Business." He currently serves on the state's prestigious Joint Budget Committee and is the past president of the National Republican Legislative Association. He has received the Statesman of the Year award from the National Right to Work Committee and was recognized as the National Legislator of the Year by the American Legislative Exchange Council. Owen has gained a reputation for his work to improve children's health care and for creating the nation's first Foreign Capitol Depository, which acts as a Swiss bank and encourages foreign investment in Colorado.

Owen continues to live in Greeley with his remarkable wife Marilyn. After 41 years of marriage, they have two sons and two teenage grandchildren. Dave is currently running for State House District 50.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent a decorated veteran and extraordinary public servant Dave Owen. We are indebted to men like Dave, who view public service not as a career but as a way of life. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to Dave Owen; he is a true American hero.